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LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the recent intensification in the propaganda put out by those in charge of the Iraqi regime and by its mouthpieces against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

You perhaps remember that Kuwait lodged a protest with you against the remarks made in the text of the statement of the Iraqi National Assembly dated 17 May 1992 and that Iraq provided no explanation of that statement to the President of the Council or to the Group of Non-Aligned Countries in the Council. We testify with appreciation to the fact that when you received the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq dated 21 May 1992 (S/24044) you issued a statement (S/24113) in which you expressed your dismay that "the letter recalls past Iraqi claims to Kuwait without also recalling Iraq's subsequent repudiations of these claims".

We note in recent times a habitual, systematic and palpable escalation by the Iraqi regime of its claims against Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity. To substantiate that this escalation is taking place, I should like to refer to a number of occurrences.

On 5 and 7 July, the Iraqi newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah published two articles by Iraq's Permanent Representative at Geneva, Barzan Al-Tikriti, in which he called for the map of the Arabian Peninsula to be redrawn so that, among other changes in the region, Kuwait would be "united" with Iraq. Al-Tikriti states that it would be no easy matter to preserve Kuwait as a State, "because it would require the neutralization of Iraq, and Iraq has been convinced since independence that Kuwait is part of itself. It has tried on more than one occasion to restore it to the mother country, but there stand in its way inter-Arab considerations and international interests, most recently the events of 2 August 1990. Iraq has payed a price greater than which there cannot be in any other event. It cannot forget that, and future generations will possess and embrace the issue as an inheritance and a crucial cause, even if in a way different from any that has been given expression from Iraq's independence up to now. The cause has become that of an entire people and of a fatherland ...".

On 27 July, Baghdad Radio reported that, in receiving the envoy of the President of Indonesia, Saddam Hussein declared: "When we spoke with a voice that made itself heard and sought to correct the mistakes of history, it brought upon Iraq the most grievous injustices which continue to befall it. If a historical mistake may not be corrected, then that situation must apply to all. In that event, Japan has no right to claim the Kuril Islands and no State member of the Security Council has the right to claim parts of any other State".

In an interview with the Jordanian weekly magazine Al-Watan on 19 June, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, stated: "Kuwait has been Iraqi since Iraq first existed on the planet ...".

On 23 July, the Iraqi newspaper Al-Thawrah published an article under the headline "The Iraqi press has been the standard-bearer of the liberation of Kuwait and its restoration to the mother country ... Iraq". The article stated: "The patriotic cause that the press has striven to demonstrate to the world is that of Kuwait and the fact of its Iraqi character, and it has been its constant endeavour since the creation of an Iraqi government to raise this compelling patriotic issue, whether with successive Iraqi Governments or before Iraqi public opinion, by demonstrating that Kuwait belongs to Iraq and by urging politicians, the executive branch and our people in Iraq and Kuwait to strive earnestly for the restoration of Kuwait to the mother country, Iraq".

On 2 August, Sa'd al-Bazzaz, editor in chief, published on the front page of the newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah an article headlined "Once upon a time" in which it is stated: "Those most entitled to speak of the glory of 2 August are the Iraqis. It is they that made the great events. What conclusions do we draw from that day? Firstly; the world discovered, willingly or not, that the State of Kuwait was nothing but a lie imposed upon the world ... . The elements of history and geography confirm that Kuwait belongs to Iraq ... . The date 2 August was the opportunity awaited for more than 70 years to correct a mistake of history. It was perhaps a correction that was delayed far beyond its time, but it would have come in any event ...".

On 1 August, the Iraqi newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah published an article that it entitled "A lie named Kuwait" and in which it was stated: "Kuwait's page in the history of Iraq and the region will continue to be of an Iraqi character regardless of the passage of time and despite any attempts by petty rulers and their powerful guardians to falsify the history of the region and to trifle with its capacities and wed them to courses that serve the colonialists and Zionists and the despicable presence of these clients and others like them in Kuwait and the territories of Nejd and the Hejaz".

The Iraqi newspaper Babil, which is published by Udayy Saddam Hussein, contained an article in which it describes Kuwait as a "governorate". It may be pointed out that on 21 July the same newspaper published an article in which it boasted of its use of this nomenclature. It published an article, under the headline "News agencies call attention to the use of the designation

'Kuwait Governorate' in our newspaper", in which it said that Agence France-Press had reported that Babil, published by Saddam Hussein's eldest son, had resumed its use of the name "Kuwait Governorate" for the Emirate. The article goes on to say that Babil is the only Iraqi newspaper that has resumed the use of this designation.

Since 5 July, Iraqi television has been broadcasting episodes of a programme called "Mirage and reality", the basic objective of which is to rewrite the history of the region to accord with the fraudulent and poisonous philosophy that claims that Kuwait is part of Iraq.

At 7.25 p.m. on 2 August, Baghdad Radio reported as follows: "On 2 August 1990, the proud Iraqis wrote an eternal epic into the history of our glorious nation when the army of Al-Qa'id al-Munadil Saddam Hussein responded to the appeal of its brothers and to patriotic duty by restoring history to its proper course and drawing the map of truth and justice through their firm desire that the land of Kuwait should return to the bosom of the mother country ... On 2 August, Iraq, under the leadership of Af-Faris Al-Mujahid Saddam Hussein, succeeded in restoring Kuwait to Iraq. When we say 'succeeded', we do so because many previous attempts had been made to this effect but all had failed. And when we say 'restoring', we do so because Kuwait is historically and in reality an integral part of Iraq."

The University of Basra in Iraq has recently published a book full of historical falsehoods and sophistries in a desperate attempt to prove what it calls the fact that Kuwait belongs to Iraq.

At the time I notified you and the members of the Security Council of the statement of the Iraqi National Assembly of 17 May 1992, the view was expressed that the statement had been intended for domestic consumption. That was, however, followed by the letter from the Iraqi Minister, which was quite certainly not intended for domestic consumption but rather to initiate a fresh confrontation with the international community despite the attempt made by Iraqi officials in closed meetings here and in other capitals to "improve" the world's understanding of it. We should like to state that any attempt to justify this propaganda campaign, by any party whatever, shall meet with no success. This tendentious campaign has exposed the true desires of the Iraqi regime which, from time to time, it attempts to conceal, namely its ambitions directed against Kuwait. This propaganda campaign is to be regarded as a manifest and explicit revocation of the acceptance by this regime of the relevant Security Council resolutions, it contradicts its continuing claim to have implemented them, and it constitutes a rejection of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). It is a form of moral intimidation by which the Iraqi regime is attempting to undermine the stability and security of the region; it is one in the series of ongoing Iraqi violations not only of the resolutions of the Council but of the most elementary values and conventions governing relations between peoples and States; and it is one of the forms of dissention for whose dissemination among the peoples of the region the Iraqi regime has been notably distinguished.

The international community may be immune to demagogic statements and declarations made by despots to their peoples. However, such a frantic campaign as that being waged by a regime celebrated for its aggression against neighbouring States requires that the entire world should challenge such practices of intimidation as indicate the continued presence of the aggressive intentions to which it has given effect in the past. The responsibility of the Security Council to ensure international security and stability requires that this grave matter should be taken up and adequately addressed.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative